



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Borough of Central City, PA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

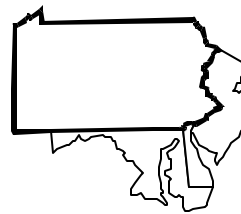
### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Borough of Central City for a Brownfields Pilot. Central City and Shade Township (combined population 4,423) are located within the Dark Shade sub-basin that follows Dark Shade Creek, a nine-mile tributary of Shade Creek that empties into Stonycreek River. Dark Shade valley is located within Pennsylvania's Appalachian coal mining region where, like many rural communities, large coal mining operations shut down after World War II, leaving the area with abandoned mines that devastated the local economies and the environment. As a result of the effects of acid mine drainage and abandoned strip mines and mining buildings, potentially contaminated properties lie vacant and the Dark Shade Creek watershed is unable to sustain aquatic life. Further, more than 70 percent of the Central City families with children live below the poverty level.

### OBJECTIVES

Central City's objective is to further the area's economic growth and provide areas for recreational activities by transforming the Dark Shade valley brownfields into usable land for commercial businesses, recreational trails, and acid mine drainage treatment systems that can double as community parks. The

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Borough of Central City,  
Pennsylvania

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the Dark Shade Creek valley's former coal mining operations for assessment to help revitalize the economy of local communities and to clean up the watershed.

#### Contacts:

Borough of Central City  
Dark Shade Creek  
Coordinating Committee  
(814) 539-5357

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 3  
(215) 814-3129

Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

Dark Shade Coordinating Committee (DSCC), which will oversee Pilot activities, is working toward regional economic development by promoting the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of Dark Shade valley brownfields. The DSCC is currently developing a Dark Shade comprehensive watershed plan to guide these efforts. The city will use the Pilot to help create the environmental and infrastructure capacity to spur economic growth in the region.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Creating an inventory of Dark Shade valley brownfields and incorporating this information into the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance's geographic information system (GIS) database;
- Completing environmental assessments at priority sites;
- Designing cleanup and redevelopment plans for assessed brownfields; and
- Conducting public education forums and workshops and gathering community stakeholder input regarding brownfields prioritization and site-specific assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment activities.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.